Kerrs Creek Wind Farm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: OUTCOMES SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 2023

res power for good

This document provides a summary of the key points discussed during the 10 October 2023 Community Information Session held to discuss the proposed Kerrs Creek Wind Farm project.

On 10 October 2023 RES staff held a drop-in community information session between 2pm - 7pm at the Euchareena Soldiers Memorial Hall. Members of the community were invited to attend to view the latest project information and talk to key project team members.

RES staff recorded discussions with community members and feedback forms were available to the approximately 80 attending community members. The compiled main themes of discussion at the session were:

VISUAL

NOISE

PROPERTY VALUES

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

TRANSPORT

The project has recently reached an important milestone in the planning and environmental assessment process with the lodgement of a scoping report with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and the receipt of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The scoping report, including technical appendices detailing issues such as visual amenity, transport, noise, and ecology and the issued SEARs can be viewed on the NSW Government's Major Projects Planning Portal (scan the QR code to view the website or go to website):

https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/kerrs-creek-wind-farm)

The following questions were frequently raised by multiple community members at the Information Session and the project team have prepared responses for clarification.

How will traffic routes and any potential road upgrades be decided?

RES acknowledges that managing the traffic and transport impacts of the project, particularly during construction, is critically important to the local community. As part of preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS), RES will be commissioning a Traffic Impact Assessment in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and advice from Transport for NSW and local Council(s).

This assessment will include a detailed route study, calculation of approximate anticipated total traffic movements and assessment for over-sized and over-mass (OSOM) loads, including any locations of upgrade works to facilitate these movements.

Preliminary design activities have focused on reducing the number of proposed vehicular access points to Burrendong Way to maintain safe road driving conditions and minimise required changes to the road network.

As part of the Traffic Impact Assessment, RES will work with Transport for NSW and Local Governments to ensure there is adequate capacity within the existing road network to accommodate the type and volume of traffic generated by the project (including OSOM loads).

This includes consideration of cumulative impacts of other nearby developments and details of how impacts on the existing network will be mitigated and managed, including through provision of infrastructure upgrades where necessary.

Kerrs Creek Wind Farm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: OUTCOMES SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 2023

How will the Community Benefit Fund be managed across the two Local Government Areas (Cabonne Council and Dubbo Regional Council) in close proximity to the project site?

RES believes that the development of community benefit sharing arrangements should be informed by the community. In NSW, agreement with local councils is required to formalise local benefit from renewable energy projects.

The breakdown of community benefit funding by project and locality will be subject to agreement with the relevant local government/s as part of development of a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). Details of these agreements need to be agreed with the host local government – in this case Dubbo Regional Council.

HAVE YOUR SAY

RES is commmitted to giving back to the communities that host our renewable energy projects.

Please scan the QR code with your phone or tablet camera to have your say about how benefits should be shared with the local community.

RES is committed to advocate for the interests of community in the development of community benefit arrangements. The project team have commenced engagement with Dubbo Regional Council and Cabonne Council about community benefit.

As part of our ongoing consultation about the development of the project, we will continue to provide updates to community about the development of benefit sharing arrangements, including ongoing opportunities to provide feedback.

To have your say about how you would like to see community benefit funds used complete the survey by scanning the above QR code.

How will decommissioning at the end of life of the wind farm be managed?

In accordance with our core values, RES is accountable for what we do. We are motivated and empowered to deliver what we are responsible for.

A wind farm is expected to have an operational life of approximately 30 years. After this time, the project owner will either decommission the site, restoring the area to its previous land use, or negotiate with landowners to repower or upgrade the equipment and extend the wind farm's operational lifespan.

In some cases parts of the wind farm have remained post-decommissioning however, it is most often because they continue to serve a functional purpose, such as the substation or access tracks.

Further information on decommissioning is required as part of the Environmental Impact Statement in the Development Application.

The Project will have a decommissioning plan which details the rights and responsibilities of parties during decommissioning, including any new project owner.

Further details about decommissioning can be found at the Clean Energy Council website:

https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/advocacy-initiatives/community-engagement/decommissioning

Why has this site has been chosen?

Choosing an appropriate site for a Wind Farm development includes consideration of several contributing factors, these include

- wind resource availability
- proximity to major energy consumption loads
- proximity to existing grid infrastructure with sufficient capacity to connect the project
- transport and site accessibility
- ability to minimise impacts on surrounding properties (including private dwelling setback)
- impacts on ecological values (flora and fauna)
- site topography that enabled access and construction

Kerrs Creek Wind Farm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: OUTCOMES SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 2023

res power for good

As the design of the project has evolved over the past few years, a number of design amendments have been undertaken including a reduction in the overall project area and size, a reduction in proposed access points to Burrendong Way from five to two, and a relocation of turbines to minimise noise and visual impacts on neighbouring properties.

How has fire management been considered by the project?

RES acknowledge that managing bushfire risk is critically important to both the lives and livelihoods of our neighbours.

As part of the initial design of the project and preparation of the scoping report that was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, RES undertook a Preliminary Bushfire Hazard Assessment.

This included a review of the NSW Rural Fire Service's Bushfire Prone Land mapping which does identify that small areas of the project site and larger areas of land surrounding the project site are potentially bushfire prone.

Accordingly, the full EIS will be informed by a detailed Bushfire Hazard Assessment which will consider both the potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires, including any risks associated with the project causing fires.

It will identify measures to prevent fires, including measures to ensure fires on the site do not develop into a grassfire and/or bushfire.

TIMELINE

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS AND PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED - Q1 2024

GRID CONNECTION APPROVED - Q1 2026

CONSTRUCTION COMMENCEMENT - Q2 2026

COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS - Q3 2028

The dates above are estimated and subject to change.

CONTACT THE TEAM

1800 118 737 to request a call back

info@kerrscreek-renewableenergy.com

kerrscreek-renewableenergy.com/contact-us

In planning for Australia's clean energy future, RES acknowledges its rich history.

We pay our respects to the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Custodians of Country on which the Kerrs Creek Wind Farm Project is proposed.

We recognise their ongoing connection to land and waterways and pay our respects to Elders past and present.